

Library Services Newsletter

JANUARY 2018



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2018!**

Via <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/new-years>

The earliest recorded festivities in honor of a new year's arrival date back some 4,000 years to ancient Babylon. For the Babylonians, the first new moon following the vernal equinox—the day in late March with an equal amount of sunlight and darkness—heralded the start of a new year.

Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In Egypt, for instance, the year began with the annual

flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The first day of the Chinese new year, meanwhile, occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice.

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor [Julius Caesar](#) decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties.

Upcoming January Deadlines & Events:

- 1/3: In-Service Day (in schools)
- 1/4: MLK plans due to Library Services
- 1/5: End of 2nd nine weeks; **Reports due to Library Services**
- 1/8-1/12: MLK Activities & Celebrations in school libraries
- 1/15: MLK holiday—schools & offices closed
- 1/28: Plans for African-American history month due
- 1/31: Last day to inform Library Services of any incomplete or incorrect Parish/Equipment orders

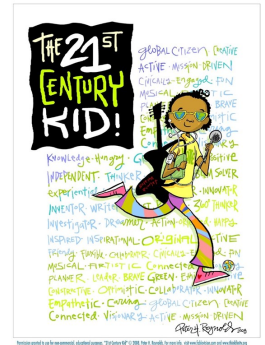
Library Services Staff

- Karl Bruchhaus—*Superintendent***
- Tommy Campbell—*Chief Academic Officer***
- Helen Curol, MLIS—*Library Consultant***
- Diane Young—*Library Coordinator***
- Valerie Elliott—*Clerk***
- Cortney Lyon—*Clerk***

New Year! New Library?

Helen Curol, MLIS—Library Consultant

Our educational & cultural communities are clamoring for new bully deterrence techniques, tougher sexual harassment restraints, and stronger suicide prevention methods. Most agree that culture is changing, students are different, and life is a faster pace than in the past century! School libraries are already playing a role in training youngsters & faculty about how to find relevant resources to assist, while maintaining those core values that remain necessary. While too many of our communities think the Internet can provide answers for everything, professional literature educates readers that school libraries continue to be relevant for training students to become critical thinkers as well providing resources for escapism for them.



Calcasieu Parish witnesses school libraries evolving into more e-books. Moss Bluff Elementary Librarians (**Ruthie Paris & Jessica Dwight**) are taking leadership roles in that progress. There is a history of online reference databases in this district, as promoted by such librarians as **Tish Martinez** (LeBlanc Mid), but another new trend is on the horizon. Innovative programs that promote student & community creativity are just now entering into play. Resources are no longer limited to books only!

Digitized resources are transitioning school libraries from places for access to spaces that encourage learning. School libraries no longer exist to maintain archives of collections but, instead, innovative learning commons that incorporate print, digital, creative, and community elements. Makerspaces focus on production, teamwork, and sharing to reinforce the school library's role in assisting differentiated learning styles with resources from a variety of levels to support students in their education. Western Heights' librarian (**Meg Arrant**) started this growth and continues to develop it! Vinton HS leads in developing original programs through the work of its students with librarian (**Adri LeBlanc**), whether they be Veteran's Day Programs or DeQuincy History Programs. **Renee LeLeux** (LeBleu Settlement) has championed an AR Kick-off Program for several years, and it engages students as no other. **Crystal Vanicor** (Oak Park Elem) offers students a unique reading space provided by Target's goodwill. Washington-Marion HS Librarian, **Tressie Bryant**, presented a Veteran's Day lesson complete with students creating windsocks as part of it.

Collaboration is now the "new norm" for school librarians. Co-teaching research skills & library literacy now mirror classroom curriculum, and co-planning between teacher & librarian are essential! **Kayla Little** (Barbe HS) inaugurated that process probably at least 4 years ago, and continues to advance it. School librarians (e.g., **Adrienne Oakley @ Iowa Mid**) collaborate with the public library to provide story-tellers and book reviewers to whet student interest in reading for fun. **Melony LeMay** (Oak Park Mid) treats her library club to public library field trips. Interlibrary loan among CPSB school libraries is theoretically the norm, and it continues to be improved until perfection is reached.

Librarians' roles are expanding to incorporate student self-sufficiency in libraries (e.g., **Beth Ferguson @ Dolby**), grant writing (e.g., **Laura Manuel @ Fairview**), instructional competency in such as topics, among others, as "Determining Fake News" or "How to Judge Web Sites," "Copyright Laws," "Library Literacy," etc.. Many school librarians such as **Mary Lanier** (TS Cooley) and **Shelly Elander** (Arnett Mid) guide students on the instruction path of information literacy.

Gone are the old wooden card catalog days and the verbal expectations of librarians of yesteryear ("shh"). Now there is a digitized global world awaiting students, and school librarians such as **Susan Gardebled & Kristi Tyree** (Sulphur HS), **Sara White** (Sulphur 9th), and **Vickie Barto & Sara Jolie** (Sam Houston HS) play a major role in preparing them for their part in it.

Continuous in the librarian process, however, is the responsibility to promote love of reading, to "hook" students on reading as an escape, a curiosity filler, an information provider, and ultimately the best way to "know the truth!" **Melissa Tarasiewicz** (Maplewood Elem), **Kim Burcham** (Nelson Elem), **Sara Walters** (Prien Lake), **Jeannie Breaux** (Vinton HS), and **Krystal Fontenot** (Westlake HS) work untiringly toward this goal.

Neither librarians nor students have easy tasks, but the inner fulfillment is exuberance!

HAPPY NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY YEAR!

OAK PARK ELEMENTARY—CRYSTAL VANICOR

Oak Park Elementary has been busy reading and trying to meet our AR goals. After a wonderful book fair we were able to order many new books that the students have been requesting. The new books have been flying off of the shelves! Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders were also able to enjoy the LYRC book talks from the public library and they look forward to reading the books and voting on their favorite.



ST. JOHN ELEMENTARY—PENNY PENTECOST

K-2 grade students read A Letter to Santa and wrote their own special letters to him! They mailed the letters in our St. John Elementary Santa mailbox!

K-2 students were blind and deaf in the library! They learned about Helen Keller during our historical figure unit of study and participated in an activity in which they were blindfolded and drew a picture by following Ms. Pentecost's directions. It was a challenging activity because Ms. Pentecost whispered the directions! K-2 students have a new appreciation for Helen Keller!



3-5th grade St. John students researched a historical figure and completed a student choice activity (poster, face book page, brochure, or journal) to present to their peers. We had a lot of fun learning about someone of the past!



SULPHUR 9TH—SARA WHITE

Sulphur High 9th grade rewarded students who met or exceeded their AR goal for the first nine weeks with a "free shirt day". About 150 students were rewarded. We are in the Christmas spirit in the library and hosting a contest to guess how many books it took to create our Christmas book tree. The contest is for both students and faculty. Books that were used to create the book tree have been weeded from the library's collection. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!



ARNETT MIDDLE—SHELLY ELLENDER

Arnett had a visit from the Westlake branch of the public library for a library card drive. Students turned applications in to me and the librarians from our branch picked up our applications and then delivered the new cards for students. They were excited when they received their library cards!



Library Club went to see An Electric Christmas at the Lutchter Theater, and the eighth graders in Library Club have been busy spreading Christmas cheer by

designing a cute reindeer bulletin board in their hallway. They saw it on Pinterest and recreated it!

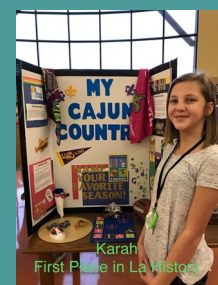


During their weekly library visit, Mrs. Connie Dronette's and Mrs. Richard's classes created a Christmas tree craft.

The Library also hosted our annual Social Studies Fair this month.



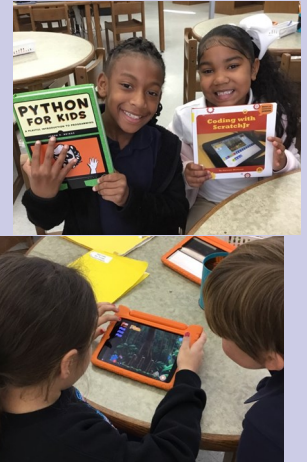
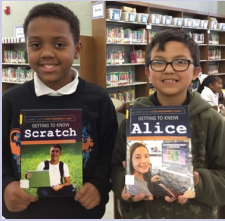
Conner and Caleb
First Place in Economics



Karah
First Place in LA History

WESTERN HEIGHTS—MARGARET ARRANT

December at Western Heights means Hour of Code. Some of our new books that arrived this fall are all about coding so the students completed a Minecraft coding Tutorial on code.org. Once they finished the tutorial they were allowed to explore other ways to code using the Tynker, Hopscotch, Lightbot, and Scratch, Jr. apps. Through these activities the students learned how video games are created and what it means to be a computer programmer. They also learned that computers only do what they are told to do through coding and sometimes we have to problem solve to debug the code.



WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY—KAREN ASHWORTH

Our students are so excited about Christmas! Pre K will be celebrating with PJs and the Polar Express, Kindergarten will be doing lots of Grinch activities, and 1st and 2nd grade are studying various countries for Christmas around the World.

In the library, 1st grade students have been classifying books into fiction and nonfiction categories. 2nd grade students have been utilizing the dictionary to create a Dictionary Dude. Everyone is reading lots of books in hopes of meeting their end of the nine weeks AR goals.

JJ JOHNSON—LESLIE BRINKLEY

Thanks Again Mrs. Shone Guillory-Jones from the Calcasieu Parish Library!! We love our story time with you!



COMBRE-FONDEL—CHRISTY MCCANN

Combre-Fondel had their First National Spelling Bee. There were 16 participants from 3rd-5th grade. We went 4 rounds before anyone was dismissed! And, we had a show down between a 3rd and 5th grader for the win! It was a great competition, and I can't wait until next year! Our judges were Dr. Reado, Mrs. Phyllis Ayo-CFT representative, Mr. Fred Hardy, and Mrs. Katie Harrington-Mayor's office



DOLBY ELEMENTARY—BETH FERGUSON

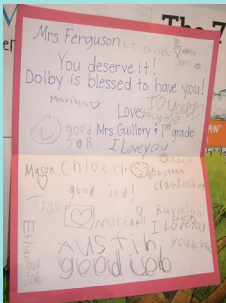
The end of December brings the end of the 2nd 9 weeks near. Students at Dolby are working diligently on their AR progress. In the library, students are connecting reading, researching, and writing skills. The 3rd – 5th grades have been working on using informational resources to write an informative paper. The 5th grade is creating a travel brochure using information gathered from Digital Media Resources such as Gale and World Book Online as well as print material. The Southwest Louisiana Convention and Tourism Bureau even sent over some travel brochures for students to use as a model. They will publish their brochure and then present it electronically to their class.



Dolby is busy staying connected with the community. The Jr. Beta Club members and The Student Council are collecting canned food items to donate to the needy. The class that brings in the most canned food items will win a popcorn party.



Jingle, the Elf on the Shelf, has arrived at Dolby and has been seen all over the campus. Students have been enjoying the jokes that Jingle leaves every night for the students. The Student Leadership team members doing the morning announcements read the jokes. It has been fun to find Jingle and hear the jokes.



The Library Helpers decorated the library for the holidays. They even made a full door decoration modeled after one of their favorite books "Llama Llama Holiday Drama". Except, their message said NO holiday drama and had a Merry Christmas message which included a picture of each of the helpers wearing a Santa hat.

The 1st grade was very proud to deliver a handmade card of Congratulations to Mrs. Ferguson for being named Librarian of the Year for Calcasieu Parish Schools. The card is displayed in the library and the students love seeing their handiwork when they visit.

MOSS BLUFF MIDDLE—TANYA PORTINAUSE & CINDY WRIGHT

Moss Bluff Middle Library helped spread the joy of Christmas by hosting an "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" PJ's, slippers and Hot Chocolate/Cookie Bar celebration. Teachers got to dress in their favorite Christmas PJ's and warm up with this special treat.



FK WHITE MIDDLE—TIFFANY BOSS

F.K. White students are spending their lunch time trying to get on Mrs. Boss's "nice list" on her Christmas door. The list is being updated constantly with students that have made 7 points or more with at least 85% accuracy. Many students have made the "nice list" but they are still working on meeting their AR goal. Other students are enjoying the second Christmas door as they take "sELFies".



JI WATSON—AMBER SMITH

JI Watson Elementary recently held their annual fall Book Fair. While shopping at the Book Fair, students could also help those in need. Students were able to donate gently used books from home to give to those in need. Students who donated books were able to enter their name into a drawing for a poster of their choice from the Book Fair. Students could also donate spare change from purchases made. This spare change was used to purchase books to be donated to Big Pine Academy in Big Pine, Florida whose library was destroyed during Hurricane Irma. We are super thankful for all of our Stingers who were able to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

SAM HOUSTON HIGH—VICKIE BARTO & SARA JOLIE

Nineteen students met their Stayin' Alive @ 25 reading goal for the 2nd 9 weeks and were treated to pizza, cookies, a "Billion Dollar" chocolate bar, and a Christmas movie.

Cards with inspirational messages (Demco-Upstart Kindness Cards) were hidden around the Bronco Library. The finder of each card was given a special Christmas treat.

Merry Christmas!



JD CLIFTON ELEMENTARY—NICHOLE THIBODEAUX

JD Clifton Elementary is proud to present our winners from our "Reading Will Take You Places" contest. The Academy Sporting Goods Store of Lake Charles, so graciously donated 30 bikes and 30 helmets for our top 30 students who met the necessary criteria. There were 15 students in 2nd Grade and 15 students in 1st Grade.

We would also like to say Thank you to Washington-Marion High School Band and our Parents for joining us!

We are so proud of you! Congratulations from your peers, the staff, and administration!



MOSS BLUFF ELEMENTARY—JESSICA DWIGHT & MARGARET PARIS

From November 27-December 15, students in the MBE library classes got to experience "Hour of Code" lessons. Students learned the basic principals of coding through the use of Ipad apps, Osmo manipulatives and BeeBots (mini robots designed like bees). Students were able to program the robots, play games, complete challenges, and most of all--have fun while learning about technology!



WASHINGTON MARION HIGH—TRESSIE BRYANT

Here are some pictures of my circulation desk and my Christmas book display. Also, a picture of a Christmas tree and the saying is : Light Up the AR Tree. When a student takes an AR test and makes a 100, we have them put their name on a light and I hang it on the tree. This helps to encourage students to take the AR test seriously. We also give them a candy when they make a 100 on a test.



T.S. COOLEY—MARY LANIER

T.S. Cooley Elementary Magnet School's Beta Club in conjunction with Mary Lanier, librarian, and River City Pops, a show choir in Austin, Texas, sponsored a "Warmth for Widen" winter accessory and coat collection for the students at Widen Elementary School in Austin. The Cooley students brought in 44 gently used or new coats, 56 hats, 54 pairs of gloves, 12 scarves, and 165 pairs of socks for the students at Widen Elementary. Mary Lanier will deliver these items to her son, Christopher, who is a member of RCP and a T.S. Cooley alum when she attends the River City Pops Christmas show in Austin during the holidays.



VINTON ELEMENTARY—JUDY ALEXANDER

We had a great author presentation by Stacy Bearden. He read his new book, Boudreaux the Louisiana Mosquitaeux. The students really enjoyed it. Merry Christmas to all from Vinton Elementary.

PRIEN LAKE ELEMENTARY—SARA WALTERS

December is book fair month for Prien Lake. It was a huge success. Our family night was well attended. We earned more money than last year. The kids are excited to help me choose new books to order for our library, using the profits. We had four gift basket winners and many other small prize winners from each grade level. After the book fair week, the classes listened to the Polar Express and Olaf's Night Before Christmas. We discussed audio books. Corporal Flurry came to visit with fifth graders, and Ms. Zoe came to read to Pre-K. The school is have a pajama day on the Tuesday before the holiday. All of the faculty and kids can wear their pajamas for Polar Express Day. It's been a great half of the year in the library, and we can't wait

for more fun in January.



BARBE ELEMENTARY—CHRISTINE NICHOLSON

December has gone as quickly as the snow that fell earlier in the month! We have worked on creating bibliography entries with upper grades and dictionary skills for some lower grades. Holiday stories were the theme for youngest students' story times. It has been fun and culminated with a Christmas program and parties. I wish I could share the whole video of the program, but these photos must suffice. We hope Christmas was merry and the New Year is very happy, too!



LEBLANC MIDDLE—TISH MARTINEZ

December has been busy here at LeBlanc Middle. We've been busy doing research and sharing our love of reading. We took sELFies with our favorite books. We got in the Christmas spirit by using props and taking Christmas pictures.



FRASCH ELEMENTARY—JENI ANDERSON

December was a busy month in the library. Fourth and fifth graders learned about the Christmas truce of 1914 while studying primary and secondary sources of information. Second and third grade students enjoyed Jan Brett's stories and illustrations while reviewing story elements. They also enjoyed Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Kindergarten and first grade students enjoyed comparing several versions of the gingerbread man story while learning about folk tales.



Frasch students earned over 2,200 Accelerated Reader points between Thanksgiving and Christmas in order to bring Santa to Frasch. Fifth graders led the school with 631 points. Second grade was close behind with 584 points. Santa visited classrooms and took lots of photos! We are so proud of our readers!

